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Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 3
Credentials of representatives to the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly

First report of the Credentials Committee

Chairman: Mr. Felipe H. **Mabilangan** (Philippines)

1. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 14 September 1999, the General Assembly, in accordance with rule 28 of its rules of procedure, appointed a Credentials Committee for its fifty-fourth session consisting of the following Member States: Austria, Bolivia, China, Philippines, Russian Federation, South Africa, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago and United States of America.

2. The Credentials Committee held its 1st meeting on 15 October 1999.

3. Felipe H. Mabilangan was unanimously elected Chairman.

4. The Committee had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General dated 14 October 1999 concerning the credentials of representatives of Member States to the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly. The Legal Counsel made a statement relating to the memorandum by the Secretary-General. The memorandum indicated that, as at 14 October 1999, credentials issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as provided in rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, had been received from the following 133 Member States: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal,

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Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen and Zambia.

5. The Legal Counsel explained to the Committee that the Secretary-General's memorandum related solely to the Member States that had submitted formal credentials of their representatives in accordance with rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

6. The Legal Counsel also reported that the Secretariat had received two sets of communications for two different delegations to represent Afghanistan at the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly:

(a) An original communication dated 1 September 1999, signed by Burhanuddin Rabbani, "President of the Islamic State of Afghanistan", presenting a delegation headed by A. Abdullah, "Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs";

(b) An original communication dated 20 September 1999, signed by Mullah Mohammad Rabbani, "President of the Acting Council of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan", presenting a delegation headed by Mowlawi Abdul Rahman "Zahed", "Deputy Foreign Minister".

7. Regarding the formal credentials of representatives of other Member States participating in the fifty-fourth session that had not yet been received at the time of the Committee's 1st meeting, the Legal Counsel stated that at a later stage the Secretary-General would report to the Committee on such credentials.

8. The Chairman recommended that the Committee accept the credentials of the representatives of all the Member States mentioned in the memorandum by the Secretary-General, on the understanding that formal credentials for representatives of the Member States that had not yet submitted such credentials would be communicated to the Secretary-General as soon as possible.

9. Having considered the question of the credentials of Afghanistan, the Committee decided to take the same position as had been taken at the fifty-third session of the General Assembly.

10. On the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee adopted the following draft resolution:

"*The Credentials Committee*,

"*Having examined* the credentials of the representatives to the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly of the Member States referred to in the memorandum of the Secretary-General, dated 14 October 1999,

"*Accepts*, subject to the decision contained in paragraph 9 of the report of the Credentials Committee, the credentials of the representatives of the Member States concerned."

11. The draft resolution proposed by the Chairman was adopted without a vote.

12. The Chairman then proposed that the Committee recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution (see para. 14). The proposal was adopted without a vote.

13. In the light of the foregoing, the present report is submitted to the General Assembly.

Recommendation of the Credentials Committee

14. The Credentials Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Credentials of representatives to the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Credentials Committee and the recommendation contained therein,

Approves the report of the Credentials Committee.